

REMARKS

At the time the current Official Action was mailed, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10; objected to claims 4, 5, 9, and 11-15; and allowed claims 16-32. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that there is allowable subject matter. By the present response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3; cancelled claims 2, 4-5, and 12-15; and added new claims 33-37. These amendments do not add any new matter. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 3, 6-11, and 16-37 remain pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks set forth below is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include features of dependent claims 2 and 4 that the Examiner indicated as allowable. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled, and claim 3 has been amended to correct its dependency. Claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

In addition, the new claims 33-37 recite features of previously dependent claims that the Examiner indicated as allowable. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 5, 12, and 14 would be allowable if written in independent form. New claims 33, 34, and 36 include the recitations of claims 5, 12, and 14, respectively, written in independent form. New claims 35 and 37 are dependent on allowable claims 34 and 36, respectively. Claims 33, 34, and 36 and their dependent claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

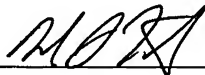
In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request thereof. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee of \$600 for additional claims, and any additional fees which may be required, to the credit card listed on the attached PTO-2038. However, if the PTO-2038 is missing, if the amount listed thereon is insufficient, or if the amount is unable to be charged to the credit card for any other reason, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025; Order No. 200208565-1 / FLE / NUHP:0076.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 14, 2006



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